BATMAN
446
APR 90
US $1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 50p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WOLFMAN
APARO
DeCARLO

WHEN THE EARTH DIES

CHAPTER TWO: UNDERWORLDS
LENIN STADIUM, LUZHNIKI SPORTS COMPLEX, MOSCOW. SIGHT OF THE 1980 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES...
PASSIONS STEEP AND BOIL HERE.
BELOW, THE AMERICAN TEAM SCORES A THIRD GOAL. THE RUSSIAN DEFENSE HAS FUMBLED AGAIN.
THE SOVIET AUDIENCE STILL CHEERS IT'S THE GAME, NOT THE PLAYERS, THAT MATTERS.
NO SIGN YET, DETECTIVE KRAKOV.
NIKITA. IS GOOD ENOUGH, OKAY? YOU'RE CERTAIN HE'LL BE HERE?
THE DEMON'S FOLLOWING A PATTERN.
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BATMAN 446 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $12.00, Canada $17.00, all other foreign $24.00. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1990 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A.
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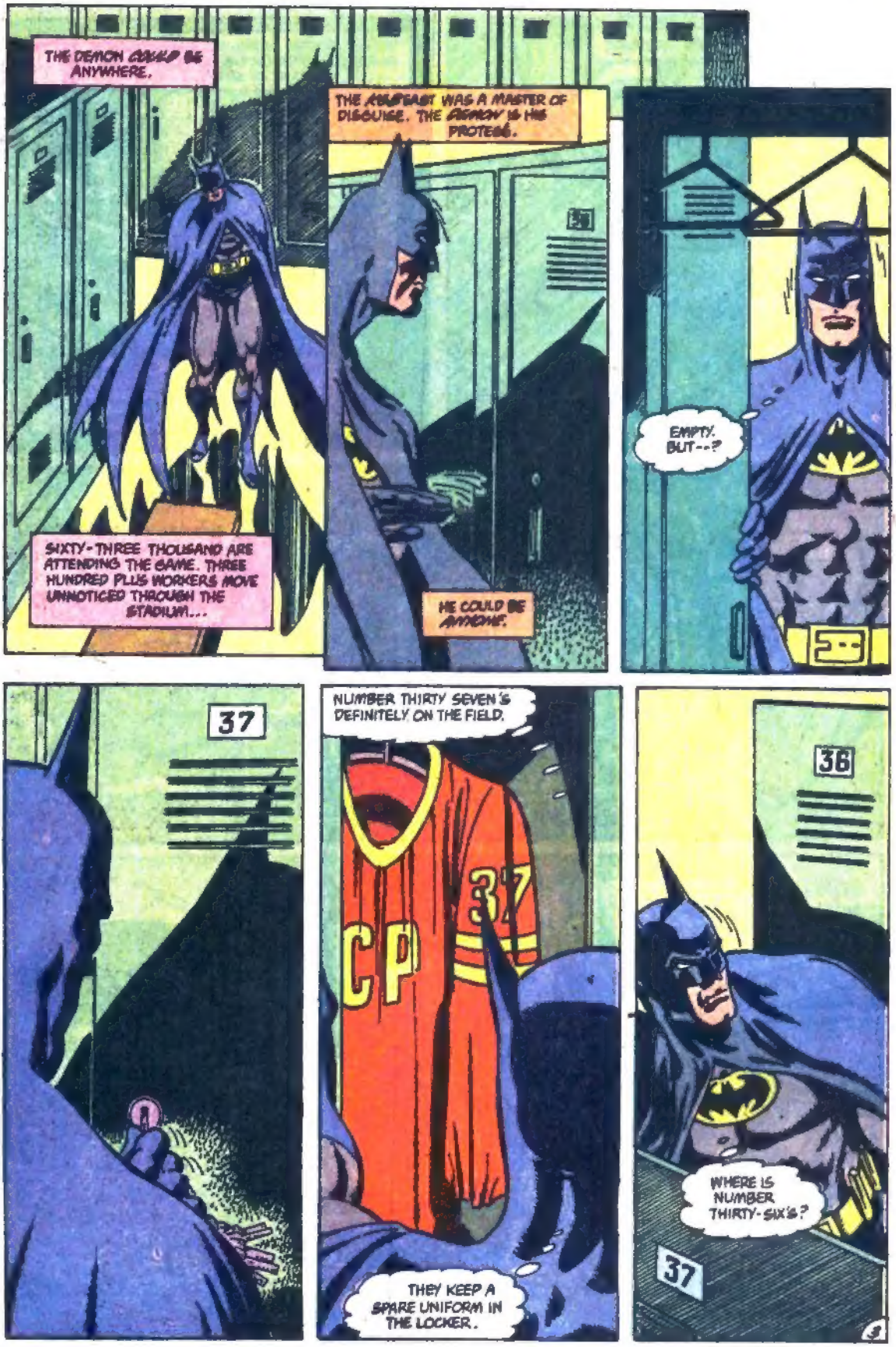
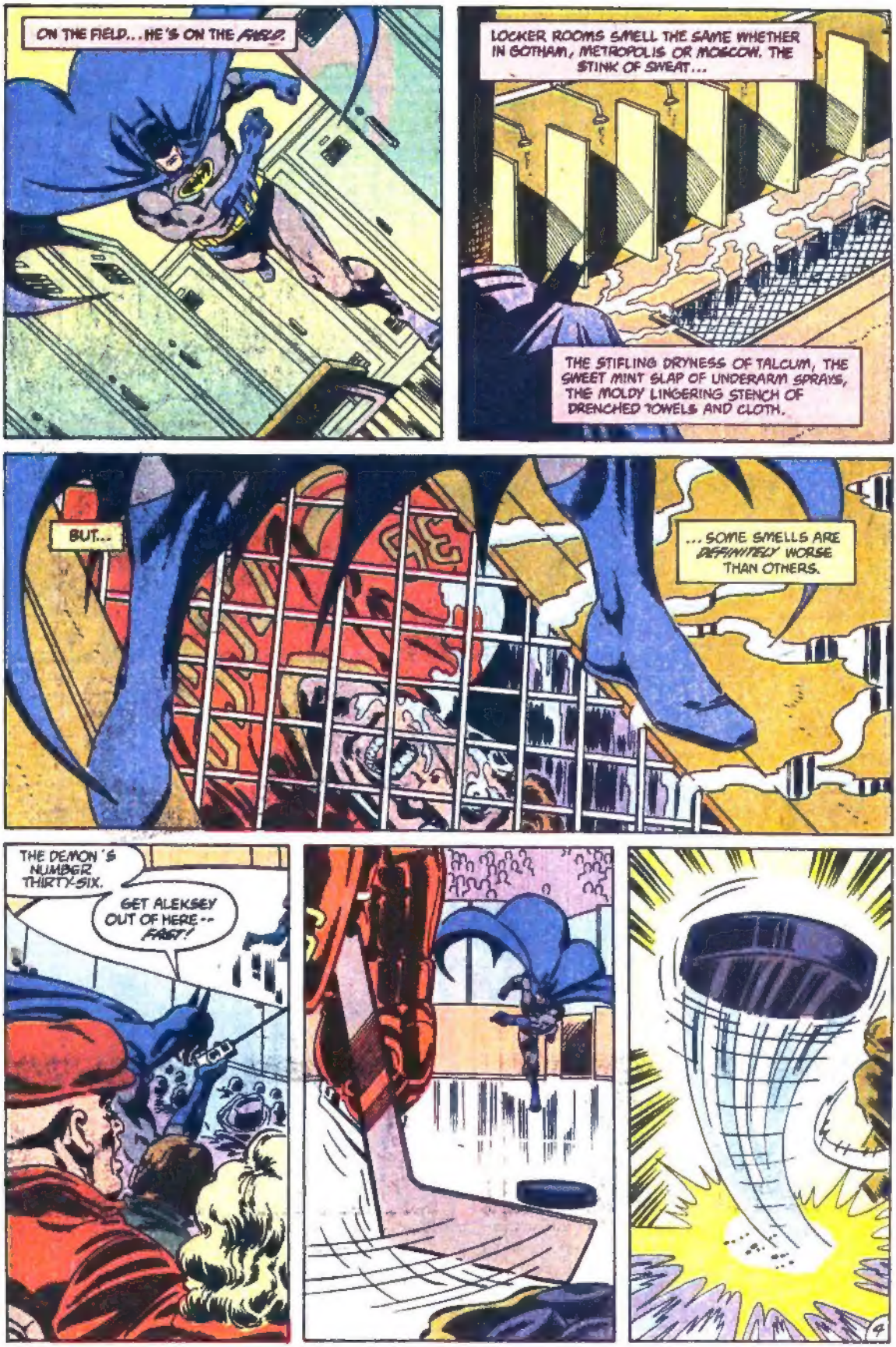
I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT, BATMAN.
BUT MORE, I HOPE WE CAN STOP THE DEMON BEFORE HE KILLS AGAIN.
WE WARNED ALEKSEY THAT HE SHOULD AVOID CROWDS AT LEAST THIS ONE TIME, BUT HE REFUSED.
THIS IS A FAMILY TRADITION-- HIS SON'S BIRTHDAY AND SOCCER. HE WOULD NOT LISTEN.
IN RUSSIA, FAMILY TRADITION IS IMPORTANT.
THEN LET'S MAKE CERTAIN IT CONTINUES.
HE'S GOT TO BE HERE.
KEEP AN EYE OPEN.
I'M CHECKING INSIDE.
2

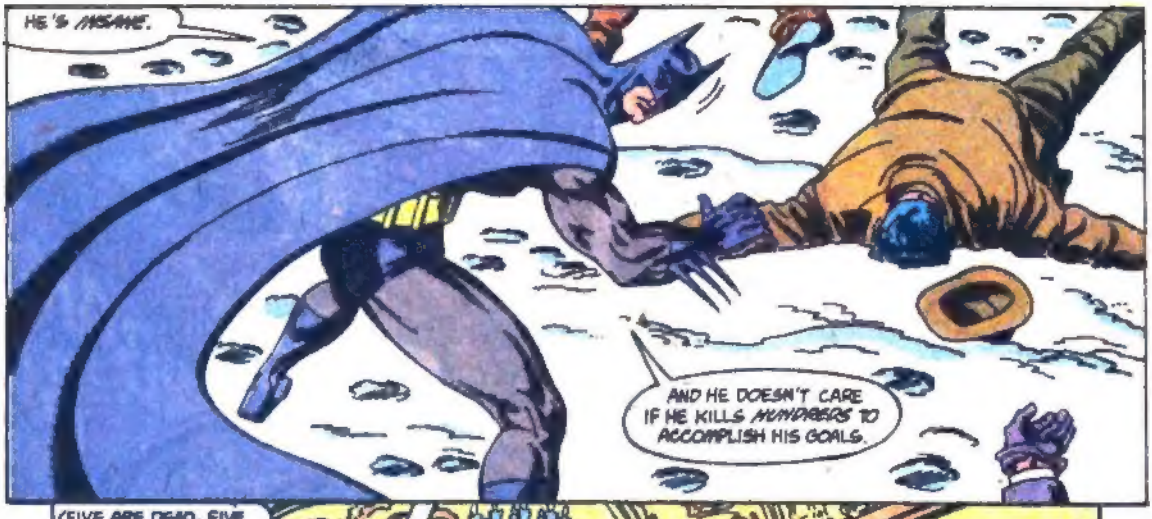

THE DEMON COULD BE ANYWHERE.
SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND ARE ATTENDING THE GAME. THREE HUNDRED PLUS WORKERS MOVE UNNOTICED THROUGH THE STADIUM...
THE ROUGEAST WAS A MASTER OF DISGUISE. THE ASHMOV IS HIS PROTEGÉ.
HE COULD BE ANYONE.
EMPTY. BUT--?
37
NUMBER THIRTY SEVEN'S DEFINITELY ON THE FIELD.
THEY KEEP A SPARE UNIFORM IN THE LOCKER.
36
WHERE IS NUMBER THIRTY-SIX'S?
37

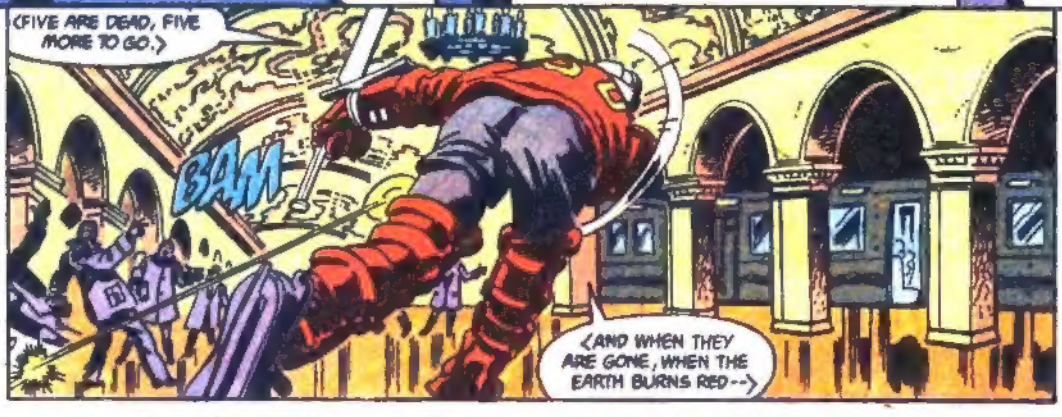

ON THE FIELD... HE'S ON THE *FIELD!*
LOCKER ROOMS SMELL THE SAME WHETHER IN GOTHAM, METROPOLIS OR MOSCOW. THE STINK OF SWEAT...
THE STIFLING DRYNESS OF TALCUM, THE SWEET MINT SLAP OF UNDERARM SPRAYS, THE MOLDY LINGERING STENCH OF DRENCHED TOWELS AND CLOTH.
BUT...
... SOME SMELLS ARE *DEFINITELY* WORSE THAN OTHERS.
THE DEMON'S NUMBER THIRTY-SIX.
GET ALEKSEY OUT OF HERE -- *FAST!*
4

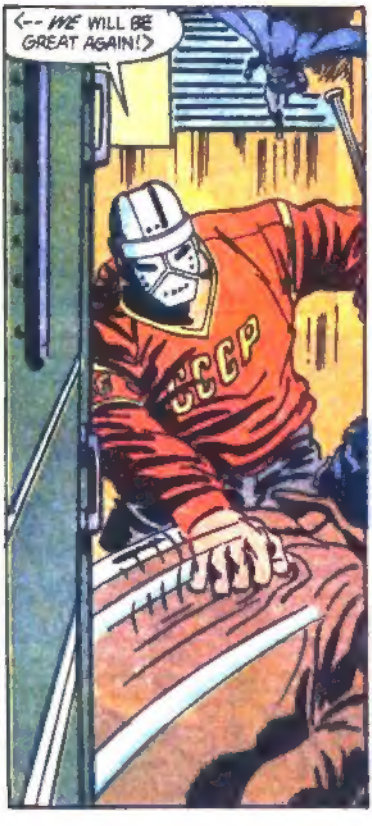
BA-JHAMMM
YAGHHH
ARRGGHH
WAM
BAM
‹DOWN! GET DOWN!!›
DEMON, YOU'RE KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE!
YOU DON'T MAKE THEM DEAD.
86
5

AS LONG AS THE TEN WHO HAVE RUINED THIS COUNTRY DIE, EVERYONE ELSE IS EXPENDABLE!
CCCP
BLAMM
FOR WHAT YOU DID TO THE ASSBEAST, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED YOU TO LINGER IN PAINFUL AGONY.
AS HE HAD TO CUT ONE LIMB TO SURVIVE YOUR ATTACK, I WISHED TO SLOWLY MUTILATE ALL OF YOURS.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU HELPLESS. I WANTED TO SEE YOU BEG FOR MERCY...
...AND THEN I WANTED TO DRAW OUT THE PAIN EVEN LONGER.
BUT THE OFFICIALS WILL SOON TRY TO STOP US. YOU HAVE FORCED MY HAND.
YOU WILL-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!?
SKRAAASKAMMM
CCCP
6

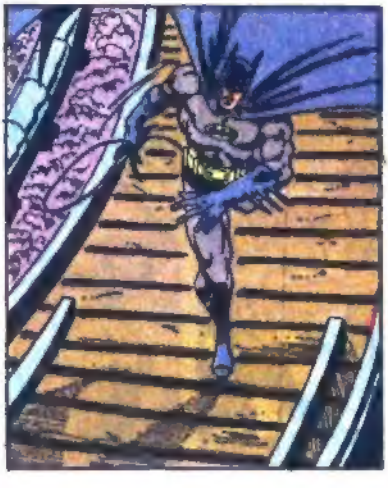
(GREGOR DOSYNSKI--SURRENDER NOW!)
(ALL EXITS ARE COVERED.)
(THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OUT!)
AGGHHH
BAM
BA
CCCP
VINEES! VINEES!
BAM
BAM
GET DOWN!
(ALL OF YOU ARE GUILTY OF GROWING SOFT AND FORGETTING OUR REVOLUTION.)
(YOU ARE VIOLATING THE VERY TENETS THAT MARX AND LENIN AND STALIN SPENT YEARS TRYING TO TEACH US.)
BAM
BAM
(BUT NO MORE. NEVER AGAIN!)
BAM
BAM
7


HE'S INSANE.
AND HE DOESN'T CARE IF HE KILLS HUNDREDS TO ACCOMPLISH HIS GOALS.


(FIVE ARE DEAD, FIVE MORE TO GO.)
BAM
(AND WHEN THEY ARE GONE, WHEN THE EARTH BURNS RED--)


(-- WE WILL BE GREAT AGAIN!)
СССР

VIZHMIVEETYEH MSELBETGIXOD! CALL THE POLICE!



(I HAVE SEEN YOUR AMERICAN TELEVISION SHOWS. ARE YOU ALL FOOLS MOTIVATED BY MINDLESS BRAVADO?)
I HAD MADE ONE MISTAKE, AMERICAN. I LET MY HATRED FOR YOU DETER ME FROM MY GOAL.
BUT THIS IS NO BATTLE OF WITS BETWEEN US. I ACHIEVE NO GLORY SIMPLY BY EMBARSING YOU IN WAR.
NO, BATMAN--NO. A SINGLE MOVE, A WRONG INTAKE OF AIR...
...AND THIS WOMAN...
IT WILL NOT BE PRETTY.
9

LEAVE THE WAY YOU CAME.
NOW!
THIS DOESN'T END ANYTHING, DEMON.
IT WILL END WHAT IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT GOALS THAT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DISTRACT ME FROM.
DAH SWEEDAHNEEYAH!
10

(OVER THERE).
(HE NEEDS AIR)
(NO. HE CAN GET WHAT HE NEEDS WITH HIS FACE-MASK IN PLACE. ALLOW HIM HIS PRIVACY.)
(RADIO FOR AN AMBULANCE?)
(HIS CONSTITUTION IS REMARKABLE)
(STILL, IF WE HAD NOT SEEN HIM GET ON THE TRAIN...
(THERE HAS BEEN NO INTERNAL DAMAGE. IT IS AS IF HE'S SHUT DOWN HIS BODY TO ALLOW ITSELF TO HEAL.)
(WHEN DO YOU THINK I CAN SPEAK WITH HIM?)
(LET HIM SLEEP IT OFF. I'LL CALL YOU WHEN HE'S AWAKE.)
(UMMM-- I FORGOT MY COAT.)

MR WAYNE? ARE YOU THERE INSIDE, MR. WAYNE?
ANNA PETROVA TO TAKE YOU TO SEE MORE FACTORY SIGHTS
MR. WAYNE?
HI
MR WAYNE, YOU ARE HURT. WHAT--?
IT'S TYPICAL-- I WAS ON THE METRO LAST NIGHT MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS
...WHEN THIS THIS BROUHAHA SUDDENLY, UMMM, ERUPTS, AND GUESS WHO GETS CAUGHT UP IN THE MIDDLE?
STEPPING INTO OPEN MANHOLE COVERS, WALKING UNDER LADDERS.
...HAVING BATMAN FROM MY HOME TOWN FALL ON TOP OF ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOSCOW UNDERGROUND--
--IT'S THE STORY OF MY LIFE BUT AT LEAST THINGS ARE NEVER DULL, EH?
ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU STILL WISH TO LOOK AT FACTORIES TODAY?
NO, BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO WITH MY TIME
JUST TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW.. UNHHHH!
MIND MY ARM?
UMMM.. UH-OH.. OF COURSE NOT.. NO
12

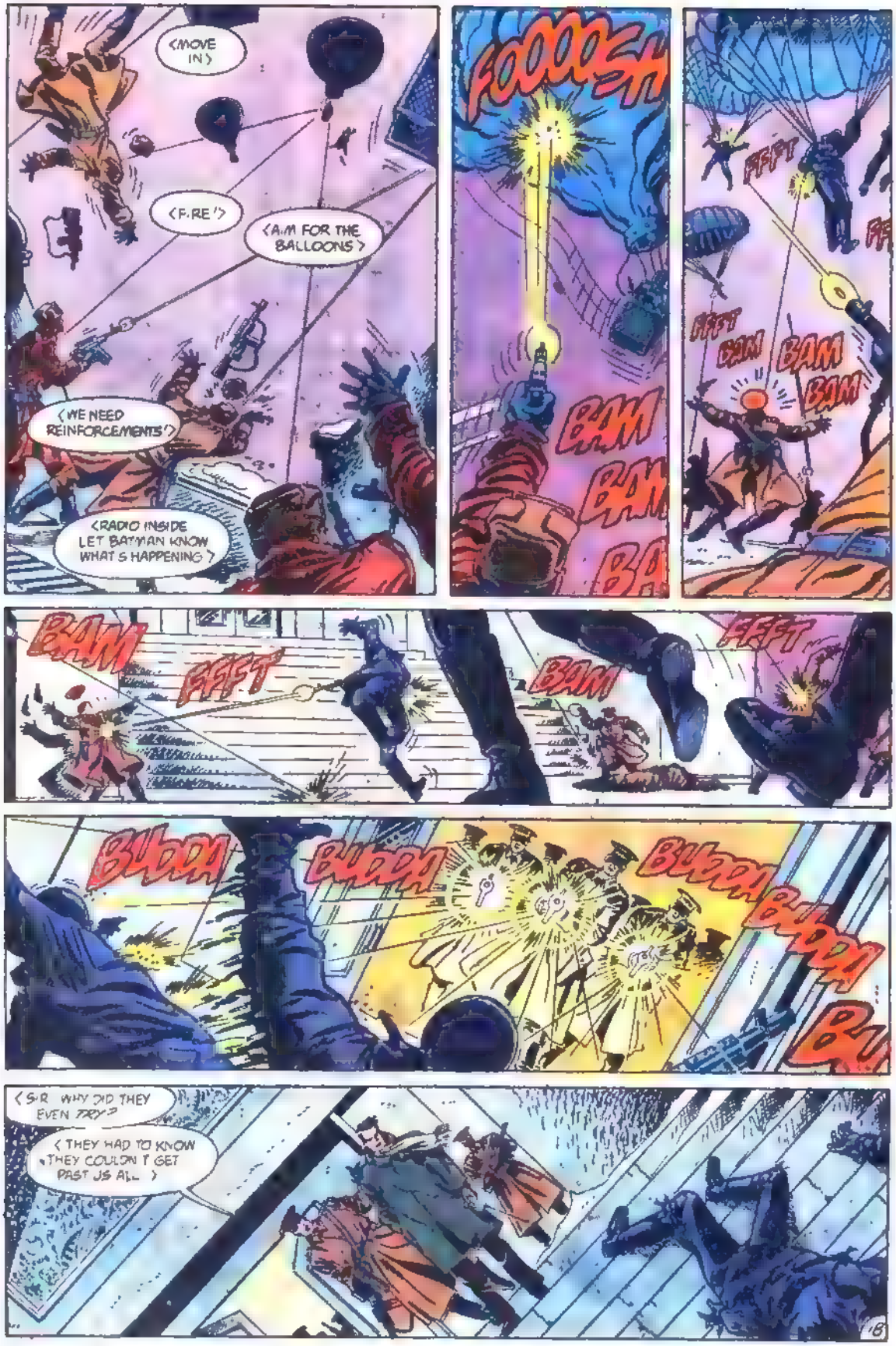
YOU SHOULD NOT BE OUT, WE CAN HANDLE--
I'VE BEEN THROUGH WORSE
IS NOT A WAY A MAN SHOULD LIVE, MY FRIEND
YOU'RE A POLICEMAN, NIKITA. YOU KNOW THE RISKS.
I TAKE VERY FEW CHANCES YOU, I FEAR, TAKE ALL TOO MANY BUT WE ARE DIFFERENT PEOPLE, NO...
... MOTIVATED PERHAPS BY DIFFERENT NEEDS
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO HARM YOU AT NIGHT?
NIKITA, ANALYZE ME ALL YOU WISH AFTER I'VE LEFT
THE PAPERS, PLEASE.
THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN FIVE DELIBERATE MURDERS.
ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE CHAIRMAN'S POLICY OF GLASNOST
THE DEMON HAS SYSTEMATICALLY KILLED THE NUMBER ONE MAN IN EACH AGENCY.
THE NEXT IS THEN PYOTR PUSHKIN, INTERNAL SECURITY.
AFTER HIM IS NICHOLA ANDRONIKOV, AGRICULTURE MINISTER
BOTH WILL BE AT A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER TOMORROW NIGHT
WE NOW HAVE THE TARGETS, AND WE HAVE THE PLACE
THE REST IS UP TO US

MR. WAYNE, IS HERE, YET, MISS VALE?
ANNA, IF THE CEREMONY BEGINS AT EIGHT, HE MAY REMEMBER TO SHOW BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
BRUCE'LL BE LATE FOR HIS OWN FUNERAL.
HOW CAN ANYONE THAT GORGEOUS BE SO ABSOLUTELY VACANT?
STILL, I COULD ACCEPT A FEW EVENINGS WITH GLITTERING TEETH AND LITTLE ELSE.
MISS VALE, THERE, PYOTR PUSHKIN HE IS TO MAKE THE MAIN SPEAK
(FIRST TARGET IN SIGHT. ALL STATIONS READY?)
(ONE...IN PLACE.)
(READY, STATION TWO)
(THREE... MOVING INTO POSITION)
THE DEMON CAN BE ANYONE.
WHICH MEANS EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE CHECKED, DOUBLE-CHECKED, THEN CHECKED AGAIN

(TO THE LEFT OF THE PODIUM, PLEASE. MRS. PUSHKIN, TO YOUR HUSBAND'S RIGHT)
(MY INSTRUCTIONS ARE THAT YOU WILL SPEAK SECOND.)
(ALL ACCOUNTED FOR)
NO, NO -- MR. WAYNE IS NOT THERE
SOMEONE REMEMBER TO GIVE HIM A MAKE-UP CALL?
(YOU CAN'T WAIT OUTSIDE ANY LONGER.)
(GO IN... NOW.)
WHAT DID HE SAY?
THERE IS TO BE TROUBLE.
COME.
UHHHH, LET'S NOT MOVE TOO QUICKLY, OKAY?
BATMAN, ANDRONIKOV'S LIMOUSINE IS COMING
SEAL UP THE AREA, NIKITA I WANT THIS AIR TIGHT
(YOU WILL SIT TO THE ABSENT, SIR. YOUR WIFE TO YOUR LEFT.)
SIR...
(VERY GOOD. THIS WILL BE A NIGHT WE WILL ALL REMEMBER.)

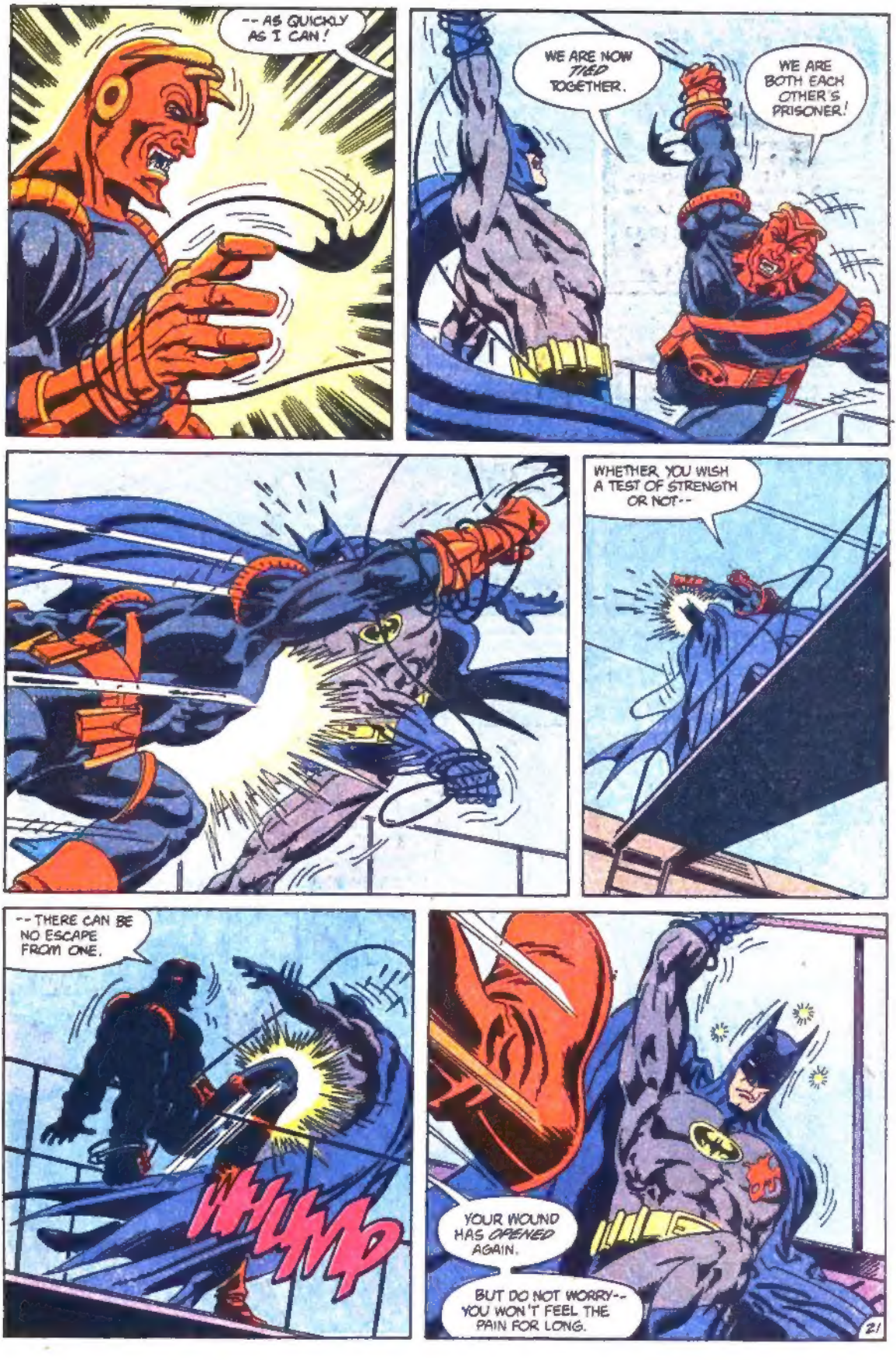
(IT IS OKAY. A PHONE CALL IS ALL FROM CHAIRMAN GORBACHEV)
(HE 'S CANCELING GLASNOST AND WE ARE ALL BEING SENT TO SIBERIA EH?)
(YOU COULD NOT HAVE MADE THAT JOKE FIVE YEARS AGO, NICHOLAS)
(OF COURSE I COULD. I WOULD BE ARRESTED. BUT I COULD SAY IT)
(SOMETHING IS HAPPENING EVERYONE ON ALERT)
(MOVE IN)
SKRASH
(MIC MIC - THERE A PARTY HERE OR WHAT?)
(DO NOT MOVE)
(SMELL HIS BREATH VODKA HE 'S JUST A DRUNK. GET HIM OUT OF HERE, AND GET BACK TO YOUR POSTS.)
(HE CALLED TO WISH ME GOOD LUCK ON THE SPEECH, THAT IS ALL)
(TEN MINUTES BEFORE THEY BEGIN)
(IF HE IS TO COME HE CANNOT DELAY ANY LONGER.)
(SIR STREETS IN ALL DIRECTIONS HAVE BEEN CLOSED OFF NOTHING IS COMING
6

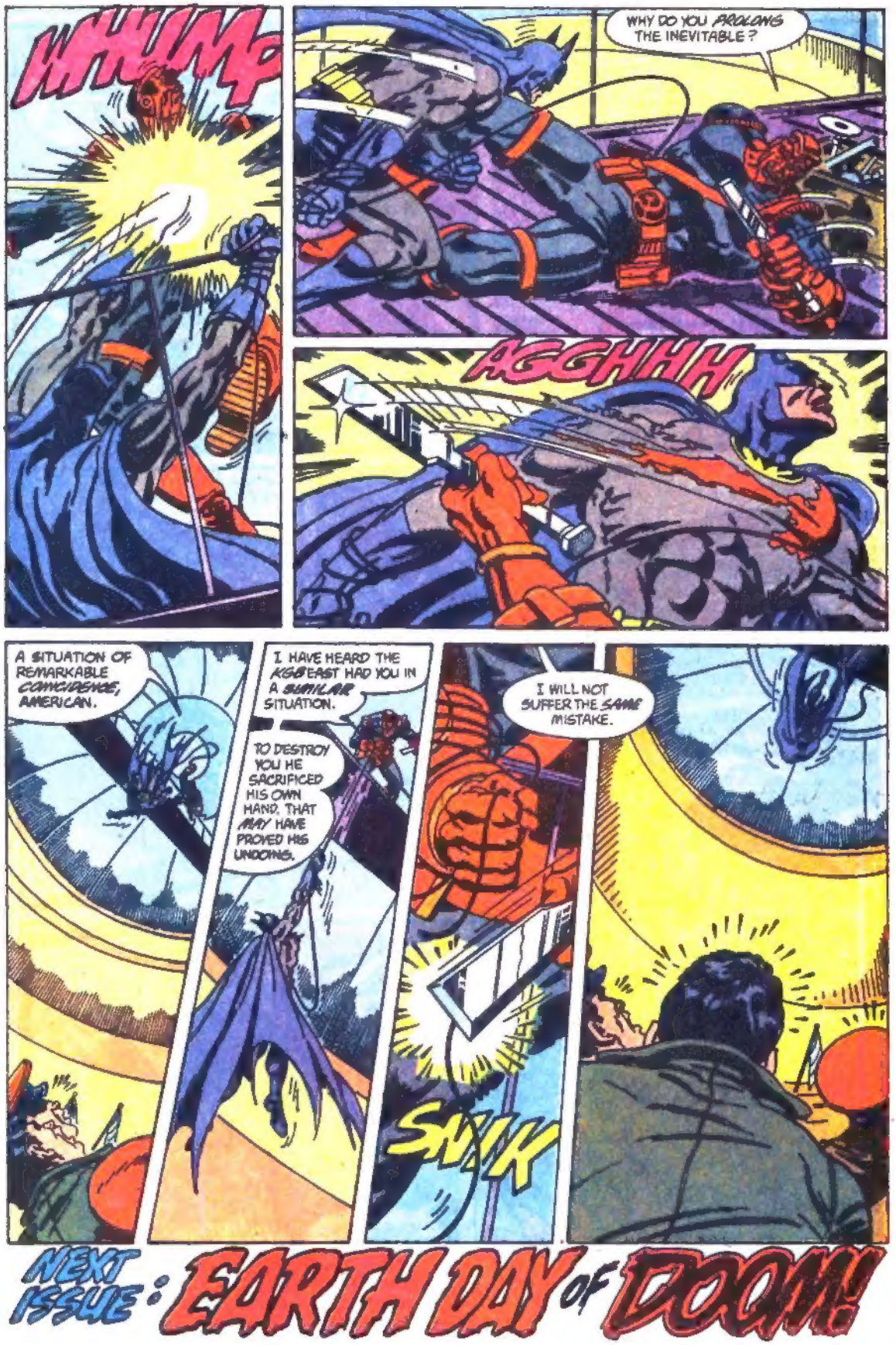
(DO NOT RELAX. THE ATTACK COULD COME FROM ANYWHERE)
COMRADES. . FRIENDS. AS WE SPEAK IN ENGLISH IN THE SOVIET UNION THIS NIGHT, IN WASHINGTON A SIMILAR GATHERING OCCURS
THERE THEY SPEAK IN RUSSIAN--
"-- A SYMBOL OF PEACE BETWEEN FORMER ADVERSARIES.
"FOR NOW WE HAVE A NEW ENEMY THAT WE CANNOT DESTROY UNLESS OUR TWO GREAT NATIONS UNITE AGAINST THIS COMMON THREAT"
THE THREAT IS OUR OWN ENVIRONMENT AS A WORLD WE HAVE POLLUTED THE AIR WE BREATHE...
...AND THE WATER WE DRINK. WE DESTROY THE RAIN FORESTS THAT CREATE OXYGEN ..
"...AND WE USE PESTICIDES WHICH CONTAMINATE OUR FARM LANDS AND THE ANIMALS WHICH GRAZE ON THEM."
W-WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!!
FFFT
FFFT
FFFT
(OPEN FIRE!)
(OPEN FIRE!)
17


〈MOVE IN〉
〈F-RE!〉
〈AIM FOR THE BALLOONS〉
〈WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS!〉
〈RADIO INSIDE LET BATMAN KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING〉
FOOOOSH
BAM
BAM
BA
FFFT
FFFT
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
FFFT
BAM
FFFT
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BU
〈SIR WHY DID THEY EVEN TRY?〉
〈THEY HAD TO KNOW THEY COULDN'T GET PAST US ALL〉
18

〈 MY GOD, OF COURSE! 〉
〈 THE DEMON IS NOT THAT STUPID. HE HAD TO KNOW. 〉
〈 HE'S BEEN INSIDE ALL ALONG! 〉
BATMAN! BATMAN! WATCH OUT INSIDE!
NICHOLA!
GET DOWN!!
BAM
BAM
BAM
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WOULD COME FROM, DEMON.
BUT WE'VE BEEN WAITING!
BATMAN?!?
19

YOU MAY LEARN TO REGRET THAT PATIENCE.
THE WORLD IS CHANGING, AMERICAN-- INDIVIDUALITY IS NO LONGER HELD AT A PREMIUM.
BAM BAM
OUR COUNTRY BECOMES MORE LIKE YOURS. WE HAVE BECOME FAR TOO MUCH ALIKE.
WE HAVE WEAKENED OURSELVES BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD WEAK LEADERS.
I WILL NOT PERMIT THAT TO CONTINUE.
(THERE, THERE! TAKE AIM, BUT DO NOT FIRE --
--UNLESS YOU HAVE A CLEAR SHOT.!)
PAH! THIS IS USELESS WITHOUT AMMUNITION.
WE WILL DEAL WITH EACH OTHER MORE LIKE MEN.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DEMON--
-- I HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE TO MYSELF.
I DON'T NEED TO BEAT YOU BLACK AND BLUE TO SHORE UP MY EGO.
I WANT YOU OVER WITH--


-- AS QUICKLY AS I CAN!
WE ARE NOW TIED TOGETHER.
WE ARE BOTH EACH OTHER'S PRISONER!
WHETHER YOU WISH A TEST OF STRENGTH OR NOT--
-- THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE FROM ONE.
WHUMP
YOUR WOUND HAS OPENED AGAIN.
BUT DO NOT WORRY-- YOU WON'T FEEL THE PAIN FOR LONG.
21


WHUMP
WHY DO YOU PROLONG THE INEVITABLE?
AGGHHH
A SITUATION OF REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE, AMERICAN.
I HAVE HEARD THE KGB EAST HAD YOU IN A SIMILAR SITUATION.
TO DESTROY YOU HE SACRIFICED HIS OWN HAND. THAT MAY HAVE PROVED HIS UNDOING.
I WILL NOT SUFFER THE SAME MISTAKE.
SNIK
NEXT ISSUE: EARTH DAY OF DOOM!